

REMARKS

At the outset, the Applicants wish to thank Examiner Morrison for discussing the present application with Applicants' attorneys in a telephone conference held on November 9, 2007 (herein, the "Interview").

Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application, of which Claims 1, 7, and 19 are in independent form. In a response dated June 25, 2007, Claims 1, 7, 19 and 21 were amended to recite methods and systems for navigating a collection of tree data structures to identify a plurality of distinct trees. In addition, Claims 1, 7, and 19 were amended to call for methods and systems wherein information related to the identified trees is returned. Support for these amendments may be found in the present application as published (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0065965) at least at paragraphs [0070]-[0083] and Figures 1, 2a, 2b, 4 and 6.

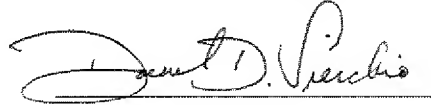
For at least the reasons discussed in detail during the Interview, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-25 are in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Final Office Action dated September 7, 2007, Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,411,957 ("Dijkstra"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,633,879 ("Jeffries"), and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,732,102 ("Khandekar"). As discussed at length in the Interview, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-cited combination of references fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed in Claims 1-25. In the Interview, Examiner Morrison requested the submission of this paper in order to advance prosecution of the present application. For at least the reasons set forth above and discussed during the Interview, reconsideration of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney via telephone at (973) 422-6422.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel D. Sierchio", written over a horizontal line.

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